

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT	Hron Metal Foundries (Kovohuty Hron), Svaty Kriz nad Hronom

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The largest Czech aluminum plant, allegedly the largest plant of this type in Mid-Europe, was under construction at a place about 2 km south of Svaty Kriz, just north of the Lademer (Q 49/C 54) - Hlinik (Q 49/C 44) railroad line, which runs parallel to the road. The plant was located between the road and the railroad line in an area about 250 to 300 meters long and 400 to 500 meters wide. Construction started in 1950 or 1951. In December 1952, several buildings had been completed and work on the interior had begun. In late summer 1953, the plant started operations on a trial basis.
2. There were rumors that the plant was to be enlarged as far as Hlinik. The plant would thus stretch approximately 7 kilometers. Leveling work in the area south of the plant, as far as the woods, started in late 1952. Additional large sheds were to be built in this area. The entire project was scheduled to be completed in 1960. An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 workers of the Prumstav and Ingstav enterprises were employed in the construction work. Most of the workers were organized in brigades which were relieved at regular intervals. The brigade workers were quartered in temporary wooden buildings at the construction site. Approximately 500 construction engineers were employed in the completion of the interior installations. They were quartered in temporary wooden buildings or in the new buildings in Svaty Kriz. Construction work continued day and night.
3. A workers' settlement of about 80 two-story buildings was under construction at the same time near Svaty Kriz. Each building had 6 to 8 two-room apartments. The buildings were arranged in blocks of three houses. Most of the buildings of the plant were of brick construction. All buildings had flat roofs. The buildings of the plant proper were provided with unusually thick floors. Many Czech firms were in charge of the installation of machinery.
4. Engineers of Energovod, National Enterprise, Prague II, erected 2 distribution points for 100,000 and 6,000 volt with 360 sections. Additional electric apparatuses were fitted and cables were laid for the electric motors.

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Some of the rectifiers were of AEG make, but had been shipped via Hungary. Two of the rectifiers were sent to Prague, allegedly as samples for a future Czech production. The plant was scheduled to be equipped with approximately 420 electric furnaces for the production of aluminum. Bauxite was to be imported from Hungary.

5. The construction site was repeatedly inspected by Hungarian specialists who were accompanied by Czech personnel. A factory militia and approximately 60 factory police with green uniforms and pistols patrolled the plant and the entire area and controlled the workers' passes. Since the construction site was open on all sides, it was not possible to control the workers at the beginning and the end of their shifts. On week days, only civilians were seen in the area of the plant. On Sundays, 150 to 200 soldiers wearing blue uniforms arrived on trucks from Zvolen (Q 49/C 74) and did brigade work voluntarily. The construction of a wall on the south side of the installation began in December. At night, the installation was lit by searchlights.

Comment:

the construction site of the

aluminum plant was located near Tlmace.

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1. Comment: The plant is presumably that of Hron Metal Foundries (Kovohuty Hron), National Enterprise

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